

Before the State of South Carolina  
Department of Insurance

In the matter of:

Shannon T. Stevens,

104 Quail Valley Drive  
Lyman, South Columbia 29365.

Consent Order  
Revoking Insurance  
Agent's License

Investigation File Number  
109576

This matter comes before me pursuant to an agreement entered into between the State of South Carolina Department of Insurance and Shannon T. Stevens, a licensed State of South Carolina resident insurance agent.

Stevens hereby admits, and I find as fact, that, while licensed by the Department to do business as a resident insurance agent within the State of South Carolina, Stevens, through his agency, Stevens Insurance Services, received premium payments from a number of customers and failed to transmit those premiums to the insurance companies, thus causing gaps in insurance coverage and cancellation of policies. In some cases coverage was never placed.

These actions are in violation of S.C. Code Ann. Sections 38-43-130 (Supp. 1999) and can ultimately lead to revocation of his license to transact the business of insurance as a resident insurance agent in South Carolina following a public hearing at the Administrative Law Judge Division.

Rather than proceeding toward a formal public hearing, the parties agreed to submit the entire matter to me, along with the specific recommendation, for my summary decision based solely on the record. That recommendation was that Stevens would waive his right to a public hearing and would voluntarily surrender his license for revocation.

S.C. Code Ann. Section 38-43-130 provides, "The director or his designee may revoke or suspend an agent's license after ten days' notice or refuse to reissue a license when it appears that an agent has been convicted of a crime of moral turpitude, has violated this title or a regulation promulgated by the Department, or has wilfully deceived or dealt unjustly with the citizens of this State." Subsection (3) of that section specifically defines "deceived or dealt unjustly with the citizens of this State" to include "failing to transmit promptly or pay all or a portion of the amount of an insurance premium when the agent or one of his employees has received payment from a customer or insured or someone on his behalf or when it has been financed by the agent.

STS Shannon T. Stevens

After a thorough review of the record, carefully considering the recommendation of the parties, and in accordance with my findings of fact, I now conclude, as a matter of law, that Stevens has willfully dealt unjustly with citizens of this State, thereby violating S.C. Code Section 38-43-130 (Supp. 1999) and that his resident insurance agent's license should be revoked.

By his signature upon this Consent Order Revoking Insurance Agent's License Stevens acknowledges that he understands this administrative disciplinary order is a public record subject to the disclosure requirements of the State of South Carolina's *Freedom of Information Act*, S.C. Code Ann. Sections 30-4-10, *et seq.* (1991 and Supp. 1998).

Nothing contained in this administrative disciplinary order should be construed to limit, or to deprive any person of, any private right of action under the law. Nothing contained in this administrative disciplinary order should be construed to limit, in any manner, the criminal jurisdiction of any law enforcement or judicial officer. Nothing contained in this administrative disciplinary order should be construed to limit the statutory duty, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 38-3-110 (4) (Supp. 1998), of the Director of Insurance, exercised either directly or through the Department to "report to the Attorney General or other appropriate law enforcement officials criminal violations of the laws relative to the business of insurance or the provisions of this title which he considers necessary to report."

It is therefore, ordered that the license of Shannon T. Steven shall, immediately, upon my date and signature upon this Consent Order Revoking Insurance Agent's License, surrender to the State of South Carolina Department of Insurance his insurance agent's license, issued to him through the State of South Carolina Department of Insurance.

It is further ordered that a copy of this consent order shall be transmitted to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners for distribution to its member states and to each insurer for which Steven T. Stevens is currently licensed to transact business as a resident insurance agent within the State of South Carolina.

This consent order becomes effective as of the date of my signature below.

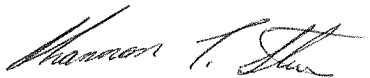
STS Shannon T. Stevens



Ernst N. Csiszar  
Director

December 6, 2001 at  
Columbia, South Carolina

I Consent:



Shannon T. Stevens  
104 Quail Valley Drive  
Lyman, South Carolina 29365

Dated this 4<sup>th</sup> day of December 2001